

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

Vol. 51 No. 19

May 27, 2005

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Change of command

Brig. Gen. Robert Yates will assume command of the 31st Fighter Wing from Brig. Gen. Phil Breedlove in a change of command ceremony 10 a.m. Wednesday in Hangar One. Aviano Mass Transit will begin running an hour before the event, and will run continuously. Buses will stop at the Triple Nickel parking area (entry control point), Aviano Dragon Fitness Center and Aviano Base Exchange, and Areas One and Two.

Lost and found

The 31st Security Forces Squadron Investigations Section is the base point of contact for lost and found property. Found property can be turned in to the Law Enforcement Desk in Flightline Bldg. 1019. Inquiries about lost property should be directed to the agency where the property was lost before calling Ext. 5401.

Oil change

Spouses of servicemembers deployed more than 30 days can receive a free oil change for their primary vehicle. Call Ext. 5407 for more information.



Airman 1st Class Franklin Perkins

Stay alive in '05

The days of summer are here and with it the 101 Critical Days of Summer, the Air Force's summer safety campaign. From wearing helmets to driving alcohol-free, everyone can benefit from taking extra precautions. This special issue of the Vigileer is all about summer safety.

101 Critical Days of Summer

By Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong
U.S. Air Force in Europe

Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of the "101 Critical Days of Summer." Statistically this period, which ends after Labor Day weekend, is a time of increased risk for mishaps and fatal injuries.

Each summer, U.S. Air Forces in Europe members are needlessly injured. In worst-case scenarios, family members and friends are left to mourn the death of a loved one.

During the 101 Critical Days of Summer last year, USAFE experienced one fatal mishap - an off-duty private motor vehicle accident. Although this was

SUMMER, Page 8 _____

Force protection: People should not leave military uniforms, equipment or documents in their vehicles. Call Ext. 7200 to report missing items.



Memorial Day: Take the time to remember

By Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong
U.S. Air Force in Europe

Each Memorial Day, Americans set aside time to remember and pay homage to the sacrifices of our nation's fallen heroes.

These brave young Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines dedicated their last full measure of devotion to service before self in order

to preserve our freedom.

From the Civil War to today's military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, these brothers, fathers, sisters and mothers laid down their lives not only for the future of Americans and their families, but to provide freedom and a better way of life for those around

MEMORIAL, Page 8 _____



Vigileer Editorial Staff

Commander,
31st Fighter Wing
Brig. Gen.
Philip M. Breedlove

Chief, Public Affairs
Capt. Eric Elliott

**NCOIC, Internal
Information**
Staff Sgt.
Jerome Baysmore

Editor
Staff Sgt.
Julie Weckerlein

Staff writer
1st Lt.
Nicole Dubnicay

Student staff writer
Au Bree Mariz

**Public Affairs
Volunteer**
Martin Weckerlein

Photo support
Visual Information
Center

The Vigileer is published by Risma, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 31st Fighter Wing.

This commercial enterprise, Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. The content of the Vigileer is not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by DoD, the Department of the Air Force or Risma of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser or user or patron. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 31st FW Public Affairs office. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Send all information by e-mail to the Vigileer at vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Faxed articles will not be accepted at all by the staff. The public affairs office is located in Bldg. 1360, Rm. 19. The Vigileer staff can be reached at Ext. 7344.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe

Services play vital role in USAFE

By Col. Dave Howe,
*U.S. Air Force in Europe
Support Deputy Director*

You may have read a recent Stars and Stripes letter to the editor discussing cutbacks of important Morale, Welfare and Recreation services. Let me start off by saying we couldn't agree more with the reader about the vital role Services plays in building our military communities, boosting morale, and providing welfare and recreation for our military members, civilians, and their families.

Wrapped into the letter, however, were misinformation and sensationalism on the extent and intent of the financial review of specific Services programs. Here are the facts:

We have 189 "businesses" across USAFE that provide services. Most of these "businesses" provide valuable services and make a profit in spite of drastically increased labor costs. Any profit these Services programs make gets plowed right back into services for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilians and their families.

Fourteen of our 189 "businesses" have been identified for review due to high labor costs, low customer support or poor management. We are reviewing these specific activities to ensure that we use your money in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

These 14 "businesses" lost just over \$1,000,000 during the first six months of Fiscal Year 2005 (1 October 2004-31 March 2005). Twelve of those 14 also lost money in Fiscal Year 2004. That's money that comes straight from our people and their families. These 14 "businesses" were given the opportunity to provide plans to put their activities back on a solid financial footing but have been unable to accomplish that goal.

However, let me make it abundantly clear these cuts are not just about "the bottom line." A significant number of our "businesses" will never make money because the customer base is too small to make a profit, particularly at our geographically separated units. In many cases we will absorb those losses, in order to retain

necessary services.

But where the services provided are not critical we must take logical action now or we'll be forced to take catastrophic action later.

Let me address several of the specific issues raised in the letter to the editor.

There is no plan or proposal to close any USAFE youth centers. We have community and youth centers all over Europe that provide a tremendous service to our communities while remaining financially solvent, ensuring we can continue to provide these activities to our communities in the future.

Many of us have our favorite base eating establishments. Not all of them are profitable, and, therefore, take away resources from other Services facilities. For example, one pizza restaurant in the command lost \$38,000 in the first six months of Fiscal Year 2005. This loss simply cannot be tolerated when there are more than 15 other eateries at this particular base.

Another comment in the letter suggested the value added tax program might be in jeopardy. Quite the contrary -- USAFE recently took the initiative to lower the costs of the forms for the vast majority of our population in order to make the program more accessible to our community at large.

The writer went on to sensationalize the issue by writing "Picture a military community without a community center, bowling center, Outdoor Rec, Youth Center..."

To the contrary, I ask the reader to imagine a military community that not only provides these services but does so in a profitable manner or incurs minimal losses so money is generated to improve established services, facilities and equipment.

It isn't a question of how many bowling centers, community centers, or eateries a base has...the issue is, how many can the community afford to support well.

Thank you for this opportunity to clear the air. We stand committed in USAFE to providing quality services to our people and to insuring these services are managed effectively and efficiently -- so that we ALL benefit!

"It isn't a question of how many bowling centers, community centers or eateries a base has...the issue is, how many can the community afford to support well."

Fly Bys

Job opportunities

The Aviano Thrift Shop is accepting applications for its manager and assistant manager/bookkeeper positions. These are permanent positions. Applicants should have management and money-handling experience. Also, the thrift shop seeks someone with financial experience to conduct an audit on their books. The shop will pay for this service. For more information on the positions, call Ext. 5428 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Birth certificates

The Sacile City Hall has distributed complimentary Italian nonofficial, memento birth certificates for all births up through January 2005. Due to the size of the documents, they can not be mailed. Families can pick them up at the Sacile hospital on the second floor. The ward is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Wingman Wednesdays

Wingmen with their cards can receive the following benefits Wednesdays around the base: bowling for two for the price of one along with free shoe rental at the Aviano Bowling Center; Wingmen workout 4 to 5 p.m. at the Dragon Fitness Center; and 25 cent wings at the La Bella Vista Club.

Commission begins next round of base realignments, closures

By John D. Banusiewicz
American Forces Press Service

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission began its work in Washington D.C. May 4.

Commission Chairman Anthony J. Principi, former secretary of Veterans Affairs, administered the oath of office to eight commissioners who will evaluate the Defense Department's recommendations for changes in U.S. force posture.

After evaluating DOD's recommendations, the independent BRAC commission will submit its own list to the president for review and approval, and then to Congress, which must accept or reject the list in its entirety.

"The Congress and the president look to this commission to provide an unbiased, independent assessment and clear 'eye of reality check' on DOD's proposals for restructuring the base infrastructure supporting our armed forces," Mr. Principi said.

He said the commission's work must reflect that while the United States devotes great resources to its defense, those resources are limited.

"Every dollar consumed in redundant, unnecessary, obsolete, inappropriately designed or located infrastructure is a dollar not available to provide the training that might save a Marine's life, purchase

the munitions to win a soldier's firefight, or fund the advances necessary to ensure continued dominance of the air or the seas," Mr. Principi said.

He said that the BRAC process will affect people.

"The words 'closure' and 'realignment' are easy to write on paper," he said, "but they do have profound effects on communities and the people who bring those communities to life. The ripples of the proposals the secretary of defense will present to our nation and to us will be tsunamis in the communities they hit."

No decision on closure or realignment will be arbitrary, Mr. Principi said.

"The Congress, in authorizing the 2005 BRAC, recognized the necessity for cost-effective operation of our armed forces," he said. "The Congress, in establishing this commission and in setting forth the standards against which we are charged to measure DOD's proposals, also ensured these decisions would not be made in a vacuum, and that DOD's proposals and their rationale and supporting data would be subject to independent analysis and assessment."

DOD officials must submit their list of recommended closures and realignments to the commission by May 16, and the commission must send its report to the president by Sept. 8.

Marriage information: The Aviano Family Support Center assists people with marriage paperwork. Call Ext. 5407 for information.

COLA survey available for USAFE members

By Tech. Sgt. Bob Purtiman
U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service

Certain service members stationed in Europe will soon have an opportunity to possibly change the amount of cost of living allowance people receive each month by filling out a Department of Defense living pattern survey.

The Department of Defense Per Diem Committee will be conducting the survey from May 16-June 17. The survey charts the shopping activities of service members and their dependents.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe members with dependents stationed in Italy at Camp Darby and Ghedi are eligible to take the web-based survey at <https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/germany>.

"We are encouraging all eligible to complete this survey," said 1st Lt. Jason Werner, USAFE chief of command pay and entitlements. "A low survey turnout has the potential to adversely affect the COLA index rate and in turn, people will get a smaller check."

It is also possible that spending habits and prices have stayed relatively consistent and the COLA index could remain unchanged.

"We're making a maximum effort to get people to participate so we can get a clear picture of peoples' spending habits," he added. "If people are accurate about where they shop and when, the result will be a truer COLA — it will reflect the actual situation they are living in and it will ac-

curately reflect what it costs to live there."

Once the LPS is complete, a retail price survey will be conducted by pricing teams and the results will be given to the Per Diem Committee. The RPS reports the actual prices of goods and services overseas. If there is a substantial difference in the current rate, the committee will change the COLA rate.

"People will be able to take the survey from their home computer," said Master Sgt. Keibu Kamarakafego, USAFE manager of military pay and procedures. "The survey results are based on members with dependents. Single members' COLA will be based on a percentage of what a married person brings home."

The spouse of a service member is eligible to take the survey, said the lieutenant. In fact, it's recommended that the person who does a majority of the shopping for the household be the one that takes the survey. Because the dollar has dropped in value against the Euro, it can be expensive living in Europe. Currently, living at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, costs 36 percent more than living in the United States would.

By the early fall, the results will be complete and the Per Diem Committee will make the COLA adjustment.

"If it's a positive change, it will be implemented quickly," Lieutenant Werner said. "If it's a negative change, the committee will phase it in over several pay periods. The change will also be publicized, so members will be able to adjust their budgets accordingly."

RESCON CORNER

DUIs

Week **2**
28 days **4**

Rescon Charlie

Sortie Board

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW		
Goal	1256.6	594
Ahead or Behind	59.5	-35
510th FS		
Goal	688.5	192
Ahead or Behind	122.2	14
555th FS		
Goal	568.1	402
Ahead or Behind	-62.7	-49

Military model competition open to all

People living in the Aviano area are invited to participate in a military model competition, held by the Italian 132nd Tank Regiment and the city of Cordenons, Italy.

The competition will be for all static military models in six categories: figures, vehicles, airplanes and helicopters, ships, diorama and military scenes, and juniors.

The event takes place from June 11 to 19 at the officers' club of "F.lli De Carli" barrack in Via Martiti della Libertà, No.163 in Cordenons. The event is free.

To sign up for the model competition, people must call Franco Decovich at Exts. 2350 or 5770. Exhibition and regulation forms are available in the 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs office in wing headquarters, Flightline Bldg. 1360. Forms can be faxed to 0434-930044-45 to Capt. Mirko Olimpico.



People are invited to gaze upon miniature replicas of military life. Both American and Italian model-makers will display their works in a competition hosted by the Italian military and the city of Cordenons June 11 to 19. People can sign up now to participate in the competition. Call Franco Decovich at Exts. 2350 or 5770 for more information.

Facts about model airplanes: Static model aircraft, those not intended to fly, are commonly built using plastic detail parts, photo etched brass and wire, though other materials such as wood, metal and paper are also often used. • Some static models are scaled for use in wind tunnels, where the data acquired is used to aid the design of full scale aircraft. • One of the most expensive airplane models in the world was that of a Boeing 707, made in the 1/10 scale and was valued at \$18,000. • Model airplanes can be made from pre-assembled kits or from scratch. • Models can be as detailed as the real thing, complete with intricate cockpit panels, decoys or material-covered passenger chairs.

AADD: People can call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 0434-30-5938 for a safe, anonymous ride home. Don't drive drunk.

Airman sentenced in contraband court martial

By Staff Sgt. Jerron Barnett and 2nd Lt. David Tomiyama
33rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs,
Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

A former 728th Air Control Squadron Airman here was sentenced to confinement for one year and dismissal from active duty in a general court martial May 20.

Maj. Gregory McMillion was found guilty on three of four charges: violating a lawful general order; failure to give notice and turn over to proper authority without delay captured or abandoned property; and wrongfully and dishonorably directing subordinates to help ship home the captured or abandoned property.

The charges are violations of Articles 92, 103 and 133 of the Uniform Code of Military Jus-

tice. He was found not guilty of giving an official statement with the intent to deceive, which is Article 107 of the UCMJ.

In the fall of 2003, 728th ACS Airmen unpacked several crates of contraband consisting of Iraqi AK-47s, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, Iraqi uniforms, inert landmines, rifles, knives and bayonets. These items were found among mission equipment after their return from a seven-month deployment supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During court proceedings, witnesses said Major McMillion gave orders to 728th ACS Airmen to set the crates aside until



These are some of the items Maj. Gregory McMillion illegally shipped home from Iraq. He was sentenced to one year confinement.

he returned from the deployment.

Major McMillion chose to be tried by a military judge alone versus a trial by a panel of officers.

Military Judge Col. Ronald Gregory recommended a waiver of the automatic forfeitures of pay and allowances that is typically imposed when an Airman

is dismissed from active duty or receives six months or more in confinement, said law officials here. Until action is taken on Major McMillion's sentence by Maj. Gen. Robert Chedister, commander of the Air Armament Center and convening authority in this case, Major McMillion's pay and allowances will be redirected to his dependents.

MEMORIAL, From Page 1

the world. Still today, across the European landscape, you will find proof of the carnage of two world wars.

Not far from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in St. Avold, France, is the final resting place for 10,489 U.S. military members who died fighting to liberate that country during World War II. The seemingly endless rows of white headstones, each representing one of our selfless patriots, serve as a reminder of the enormity of America's loss to ensure freedom on the European continent.

Each year across Europe, our friends and allies join us in memorial services over the Memorial Day weekend to pay homage to the memories of America's heroes. I encourage you to take advantage of the unique opportunity to attend one of these ceremonies.

Above all else - please take the time to reflect and remember. Those that have so bravely gone before us lit the torch. It's our responsibility to cherish our freedom and remember what the flame means as we proudly carry it on.

Navy team visits Aviano to settle claims

A U.S. Navy team responsible for settling tire-shredder claims will be at Aviano June 6 to 9 to settle claims based on the schedule outlined below.

The schedule below is only for those claimants who have already filed their claim. Claims personnel will take roll to verify they have the claim on hand before each hour's proceedings.

As a reminder, filing a claim is by appointment only; if a person has not yet filed a claim, he or she is encouraged to call the claims office at Ext. 7844 to schedule an appointment.

The first letter of the claimant's last name will determine the appointment date and time as indicated. (See box.) The location will be Bldg. 1399 (the old golf course club house-- recently used as the tax center). Claimants are asked to bring the following items to the settlement appointment: a current ID card, their current AFI license, current proof of insurance, vehicle registration, and a copy of their service orders to Aviano Air Base.

This will be the only time Navy personnel will be on site to settle tire shredder claims. All claims not settled June 6 to 9 will be settled in the normal course of business. "Make Up" appointments dur-

ing the visit will be assigned only by claims personnel. The Aviano Legal Office asks that either the person, or a representative on their behalf, please attend the appointment at the allotted time and to be patient as they work through the claims.

Representatives must produce a current and properly-executed special power of attorney regarding claims, or a current general power of attorney.

Call Ext.s 7844 or 7843 for more information. (Aviano Legal Office)

Claims schedule

June 6

A - 10 to 11 a.m. B - 11 a.m. to noon
C - 1 to 2 p.m. D - 2 to 3 p.m.
E, F - 3 to 4 p.m. G - 4 to 5 p.m.

June 7

H - 8 to 9 a.m. I, J - 9 to 10 a.m.
K, L - 10 to 11 a.m. M - 11 a.m. to noon
N - 1 to 2 p.m. O - 2 to 3 p.m.

June 8

P, Q - 8 to 9 a.m. R - 9 to 10 a.m.
S - 10 to 11 a.m. T, U - 11 a.m. to noon
V, W - 1 to 2 p.m. X, Y, Z - 2 to 3 p.m.

June 9 - for claims filed after May 23

A-G - 8 to 9 a.m. H, O - 9 to 10 a.m.
P, Z - 10 to 11 a.m.

Spring concert: People can attend a spring concert featuring classical, jazz and opera 7 p.m. June 3 at the Aviano Community Center.

Critically manned career fields given edge to fill NCO slots

Airmen in 17 Air Force specialties will be given a leg up for promotion this year in an attempt to fill manning shortfalls in their career fields.

As part of the chronic critical shortage skills program, Airmen testing for staff, technical or master sergeants during the 2005 promotion cycle, and who are in 17 career fields, will be promoted at 1.2 times the Air Force average.

For example, if the Air Force average for a particular promotion is 15 percent, then the critical skills would be promoted at a promotion rate of 18 percent.

Career fields are considered for placement on the list when the number of staff, technical and master sergeants is below and projected to remain below 90 percent, said Reese Lang, the Air Force enlisted skills manager.

Once placed on the list, the specialty remains on it for at least two years and until noncommissioned officers manning in the career

fields is above 95 percent.

"Basically this is to help these career fields that have NCO shortages," Mr. Lang said. "And this is done every year for the NCO promotion cycle. It is part of the promotion cycle."

Specialties on the 2005 list are:

- Loadmaster (1A2X1) • Airborne Communications and Electronics Systems (1A3X1) • Airborne Battle Management (1A4X1X) • Airborne Cryptologic Linguist (1A8X1X) • Air Traffic Control (1C1X1) • Combat Control (1C2X1) • Command Post (1C3X1) • Aerospace Control and Warning Systems (1C5X1X) • Space System Operations (1C6X1) • Intelligence Applications (1N0X1) • Imagery Analysis (1N1X1) • Network Intelligence Analysis (1N4X1) • -- Electronic Signals Intelligence Exploitation (1N5X1) • Electronic Systems Security Assessment (1N6X1) • Pararescue (1T2X1) • Weather (1W0X1X) • -- F-16, F-117, RQ-1, CV-22 Avionics Systems (2A3X2). (Air Force News Service)

SUMMER, From Page 1

was a significant decrease from previous summers, the loss of a single life is unacceptable. Such losses affect the community deeply and personally; family members and friends are forced to face the irrevocable end of an enriching and priceless relationship.

Vehicle mishaps are the leading cause of accidental deaths during this time frame.

The Air Force as a whole experienced 32 fatalities last summer. Of these, 24 involved private motor vehicles.

Sadly, investigation and analysis of these events reveals a very tragic aspect - nearly all of them could have been prevented.

Controls such as the driver getting the proper rest, reducing their driving speed and refraining from alcohol were either not considered or not applied.

No one is immune to mishaps or the distractions that often precede them. We are all susceptible whether on the job, at home or while traveling. As we enter the 101 Critical Days of Summer, I challenge you to bring your courage and apply appropriate Operational Risk Management to everything you do.

Every USAFE member is valuable, and by taking care of ourselves and our wingman, we can make this summer one that's fun and safe.

Teen volunteers

The American Red Cross is looking for teen volunteers to donate their time this summer in various base agencies. Motivated students, ages 14 and up, are needed to work in orderly rooms and other base agencies. The office also has some positions for students under 14. For more details, call Ext. 5576.

Legal change

The legal office has changed their notary and powers of attorney hours to 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call Ext. 7843.

Med group closure

The 31st Medical Group is closed today for the wing down day and Monday for Memorial Day observance. Family practice has extended care hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call Ext. 5000 to obtain an appointment during the extended care hours. For off-duty care during the closure,

go to the Pordenone or closest emergency room. Non-Personnel Reliability Program Airmen may phone a nurse on the Health Care Information Line at Ext. 5000.

Housing closure

The Housing Management Office and Furnishings Management Office is closed Thursday and June 3 for Italian holidays.

Promotion ceremony

The Wing Enlisted promotion ceremony is 9 a.m. Thursday in Hangar One. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Arleen Heath at Ext. 4027, or Master Sgt. Michael Freeman at Ext. 4072.

Transportation luncheon

National Defense Transportation Association luncheon is noon Wednesday in the La Bella Vista Club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Cyndi Kibler at Ext. 7680

Book Signing

James A. Scott will be in the Base Exchange Aviano Bookmark to autograph his book, "The Iran Contradictions," from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Combined briefings

The next Palace Front/Palace Chase briefing is 2 p.m. June 13, in the 31st Mission Support Group Conference Room. The Palace Front briefing is mandatory for all re-enlistment eligible airmen who are electing to separate from the Air Force. Airmen interested in early separation through Palace Chase may also attend. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Janet Boyles at Ext. 4919.

Field closure

The Dragon Fitness Center football field and running track will be closed from June 6 to 14 for light tower construction. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Anger management

The Aviano Family Advocacy anger management class runs for four consecutive sessions Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on June 6, 13 and 27 and July 11. The class will meet at the Area One Education Center in Room B2. For more information or to sign up, call Ext. 5667.

Pass and registration

The 31st Security Forces Pass and vehicle registration office is closed today and Monday for the Wing Down Day and Memorial Day observance. The office is also closed Thursday, to Soggiorno appointments or pick-ups because of the Italian Holiday. For more information, call Ext. 7921.

ERAU registration

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers a minor in security and intelligence through distance education courses. The school offers six classes in Intelligence Analysis, Writing and Briefing; national security issues and terrorism; global crime and criminal systems. For

more information or to register, call Ext. 5140.

Term 5 registration

University of Maryland University College Term 5 registration runs through June 3. For more information, call Ext. 5365.

BRAC Web site

The Air Force has established a Web site to answer questions concerning Base Realignment and Closure recommendations. The Air Force Web site, www.af.mil/brac, will have a list of affected bases from the BRAC list as well as links to frequently asked questions, news articles, and DOD and Air Force information concerning BRAC recommendations.

Graduation ceremony

University of Maryland University College is holding a graduation ceremony here for August and December 2004 and June 2005 graduates June 4 in the Community Activity Center. For more information, call Ext. 5365.

Field day volunteers

The Aviano Elementary School is looking for volunteers to support their field day for the third and fourth graders June 7 and first and second graders June 8. Field day is from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Area D. For more information, e-mail meryl.smith@eu.dodea.edu.

Eagle Eyes

People should call Aviano's Eagle Eyes program to report any suspicious behavior or people in their neighborhoods. Call Ext. 7200 or 0434-30-7200 to make a report.

La Leche League

The La Leche League of Aviano meets at 10 a.m. June 13 in the Chapel Education Center, Bldg. 168. The group welcomes pregnant and breastfeeding mothers for an informal discussion on breastfeeding and nutrition. For more information, call 0434-75-5606 or 348-242-5373 or e-mail LLLAviano@yahoo.com.

Reel Times

Today, 5 p.m. - "Robots" Rated PG - Rodney Copperbottom wants to work toward making the world a better place. Starring: Halle Berry and Robin Williams

Today, 8 p.m. - "Sahara" Rated PG-13 - A master explorer goes on a dangerous North African treasure hunt to search for "The Ship of Death." Starring: Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz

Saturday, 2 p.m. - "Robots"

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "Hostage" Rated R - A former hostage negotiator, has moved from his failed career to Los Angeles. A robbery goes wrong and the perpetrators move in on an unsuspecting family. Starring: Bruce Willis and Kevin Pollak

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Sahara"

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "Hostage"

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "Sahara"

Friday, 5 p.m. - "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed And Fabulous" Rated PG-13 - FBI agent Gracie Hart successfully disarmed a threat against the Miss U.S. Pageant while working undercover as a contestant in Miss Congeniality — she's needed again. Starring: Sandra Bullock and Regina King

Friday, 8 p.m. - "Amityville Horror" Rated R - Ronald DeFeo confessed to murdering his family, and claimed it was the "voices" that told him to do it. One year later, George and Kathy Lutz along with their three children moved into the house, thinking it was going to be their dream home ... Starring: Jimmy Bennett, Ryan Reynolds

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

35

safety tips for driving in Italy

Italian driving laws

- Keep lights on while driving on the autostrada and country roads, regardless of the time of day.
- Motorcycles must have their headlights on at all times while driving.
- Law requires people to stop at accidents to provide assistance if nobody else is at the scene.
- There is no “right turn on red” in Italy.
- It is against the Italian driving code to use a cell phone while driving. Pull over to the side to talk, or use a hands-free device.
- Stop for the lollipop. Law enforcement randomly stops traffic for routine checks with a red and white stick.
- When approaching flashing yellow lights, non-priority roads must yield.
- Yield to traffic on the right at intersections.
- Italian speeding tickets must be paid on the spot. Fines range from \$30 to \$1,200. Slow down.
- Law officials use radar and cameras to check speed. Tickets will be sent in the mail.
- If the car breaks down, drivers must get it off the road, put on an approved safety vest and place caution triangles to the front and rear of the car.

Seatbelt safety

- Airbags alone cannot save a life. Airbags may cause injury or death to passengers sitting too close when they go off.
- To wear a seat belt correctly, the part that crosses the lap should be low and snug across the pelvis and lap area, not across the stomach.
- Seatbelts worn across the stomach could cause internal damage during an accident.
- The shoulder part of the seat belt should cross the chest and collarbone and be snug. Never wear the belt across the face, behind the back or under an arm.
- Adult seatbelts are for people at



Driving in Italy is not like driving in the states. Traffic signs are different, as are some rules of the road. The streets are older and narrower, too. Driving in Italy means taking extra precautions and being extra cautious.

least 4 feet 8 inches tall and 80 pounds or more; otherwise, a child safety seat may be needed.

- Infants should never ride in the front seat of a vehicle with passenger-side air bags. Children 12-years-old and younger should be buckled up in the back seat.
- Young children and infants should ride in age- and size-appropriate child safety seats. The safety seat should be held in place by the vehicle's seat belt and the child should be correctly buckled in. A child who has outgrown a child safety

32 The number of Air Force fatalities last summer.

seat will need to ride in a booster seat for the vehicle's safety belts to fit correctly.

- Move the front seats back. Seats should be only as close as necessary to operate the car.

Motorcycle safety

- Wear the proper gear. Helmets, long-sleeved shirts or jackets, long pants, full-fingered gloves, eye protections and sturdy, over-the ankle footwear are important.
- Long pants are essential. If the bike falls over at speeds greater than two miles per hour, one of the rider's legs will make contact with the ground. In a battle between bare flesh and concrete, the concrete will win. Pants also protect skin from the sun.

- Never carry a passenger unless the motorcycle is equipped for one. Seating space and passenger foot pegs are required.

- To ride in Europe, American motorcyclists must have a U.S. driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement and have a Motorcycle Safety Foundation course card. To get the card, drivers must take the MSF rider's course.

- Motorcycle operators must be recertified every three years through the MSF.

- Riders must wear reflective gear at night.

- Watch the speed on tight curves — it's easier to lose control.

General safety

- Avoid taking medications that cause drowsiness.

- Try to limit yourself to driving 300 to 400 miles per day to avoid driving while fatigued.

- Watch out for warning signs that fatigue is setting in.

- If you find yourself getting tired, take a break by stretching and doing a few exercises.

- Try to buy a cell phone with a hands-free option.

- Keep the vehicle in good condition.

- In an emergency, pull off the road and turn on flashers or place reflective markers behind the vehicle.

- Avoid traveling for long hours and driving at excessive speeds.

(www.nsc.org and www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

42

safety tips for
the summer

Beat the heat

- Do not stay in closed, parked cars during hot weather.
- Do not exercise vigorously during the hottest times of the day.
- Wear light, loose-fitting clothing, such as cotton, so sweat can evaporate.
- Limit your stay in hot tubs or heated whirlpools to 15 minutes.
- Do not drink alcohol or beverages with caffeine because they speed up fluid loss.
- Stay out of the sun if you are taking water pills, mood altering or antispasmodic medications.
- Do not bundle a baby in blankets or heavy clothing. Infants don't have well-developed sweat glands.
- Some people perspire more than others; drink fluid according to your rate.
- Don't ignore the signs of heat stroke and heat exhaustion, such as dizziness and fatigue.

Water safety

- Monitor children at all times whenever they are around any type of water: beach, pool, lake, etc.
- Other hazards for children can be found in their own homes. A child can easily drown in a bath tub, toilet, or a bucket of water.
- People who swim in the ocean must be careful. Risk factors are easily prevented if the swimmer has a basic knowledge of ocean tides. People can look on www.noaa.gov for information on tides before heading to the beach. It may save their lives.
- When caught in a rip-current, relax and wait for the current to flow to a place where it is easy to exit the current and get back to shore.
- Be aware that cold water draws body heat and can cause hypothermia.
- The risk of disease is another swimming hazard. According to the Center for Disease Control, a variety of infections, like skin, ear, respiratory and diarrhea, have been linked to wading or swimming in the ocean, lakes, rivers and swimming pools.
- Accidentally swallowing small amounts



Summer is here, which means lots of sunlight, heat and humidity. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are common but avoidable problems associated with too much sunlight. Sunburn is also a common summertime ailment. Sunscreen with a high sun protection factor and covering up provides the best protection.

of contaminated water can cause illness. People should avoid swimming or wading with open cuts or abrasions that could let germs into their bodies.

- Swim in designated swimming areas.
- Swim with a buddy - never swim alone.

Home safety

- Cook only where rules allow.
- Keep the cooking area clean and uncluttered.
- Unplug electric appliances when not in use.
- Never leave stoves unattended.
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit. Don't try to remove burning containers from a microwave.
- Smoke only where permitted.
- Use deep, non-tip ashtrays.
- Don't smoke in bed. It's risky to smoke when drinking or drowsy.
- Soak cigarette butts in water before discarding, and after a party, check around cushions for smoldering cigarettes.
- Learn the building evacuation plan and participate in all drills.
- If escaping through smoke is necessary, crawl to the exit and keep your head close to the floor where air will be the freshest.
- Test door knobs and spaces around the door for heat with the back of a hand.
- Use the stairs when there's a fire, never an elevator.
- Respond to every alarm like it was a real fire. Report information on false alarms to authorities.

Grill and fire safety

- If using fluid to start a charcoal grill, use only fuel intended for this purpose.
 - Use charcoal lighter fluid safely. Lighter fluid should only be used before the fire is lit.
 - Adding fuel to a fire can cause the fire to travel up the stream and into the container causing an explosion, which can seriously injure or even kill you.
 - Apply starter fluid directly to coals, reseal the can and put it away. Light the coals carefully.
 - Never use gasoline to start or freshen a fire.
 - Use propane and charcoal grills only outdoors. If used indoors, grills may become a fire hazard and risk exposing occupants to toxic gases.
 - Place grills where they won't tip over or ignite objects above them. Do not use them on balconies or under awnings or the eaves of buildings.
 - Never bring a grill into the home. The carbon monoxide produced by burning charcoal can be dangerous in an enclosed space.
 - Have a container of water or a garden hose ready to extinguish a fire, a must for grill novices or those who like their food really well done.
 - Keep children away from fires or grills. Children may try to climb on the grill to see what's cooking and seriously burn their hands.
- Those with questions concerning outdoor grilling safety can call the fire prevention office at Ext. 7530.

Travel Safety

Road trip

- Start your trip with a automotive check-up. Check your tires, and be sure you have a functional spare and tools to change it.
- In an emergency, carefully work your way to the side of the road at the first sign of trouble. Try to reach an exit on the autostrada. Place flares, warning flags or reflective triangles behind your vehicle to warn other motorists of your presence. Turn on emergency flashers.
- Your summer driving ability is often impaired by heat, which can leave you fatigued and less alert. Park in the shade and if you have air conditioning, run it to keep your car cool. Switch drivers on longer trips to avoid road fatigue.
- Summer storms can create slippery road surfaces and cause vehicles to hydroplane or skid out of control. If this occurs, release the accelerator and avoid braking until the car slows. Control should return in a few seconds.

Train travel

- Train travel is an excellent way to see the countryside and meet local citizens. Plan your tickets and reservations carefully with a travel agent or the train station ticket agent. Be specific when referring to train stations because many large European cities have more than one. Never entrust your luggage to someone not in uniform. Get baggage claim checks and hold on to them. (31st Fighter Wing Safety Office)



Courtesy photo

Name this vacation location

This little guy has the best urinary tract in Europ, having been performing since 1619. The statue is very often dressed. He has a wardrobe of more than 600 costumes, which are all preserved in the City Museum at the Grand Place. The city in which its located is best known as the home of the EU, which, given recent developments, is something of a poisoned chalice. But in fact, the EU neither dominates nor defines the city, merely forming one layer of a city that has become, in postwar years at least, a thriving, cosmopolitan metropolis. It's a vibrant and fascinating place, with architecture and museums to rank among the best of Europe's capitals, not to mention a superb restaurant scene and an energetic nightlife. Be the sixth person to send the correct city name and country, plus the name of the little man, to vigileer@aviano.af.mil.

Bottled water: It's always a good idea to purchase bottled water while traveling, especially when visiting foreign countries.

Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Croatia by boat
- Saturday and Sunday - Florence

Overnight

- June 11 - Guided Salzburg and Eagle's Nest
- June 11 - Guided Bologna
- June 17 - Guided Venice and gondola ride

- June 18 - Wine tasting in Grado with special Roman fish banquet

- June 22 - Gardaland

The ITT escort will ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. He or she will provide general information about the area, as well. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026.

Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein

Salzburg, Austria is the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Project Smart and driving safety

Changing tires could save your life

By Lia Scandola

31st Fighter Wing Safety Office

How does the phrase go: "You don't believe it until it happens to you?"

Well, I believe it now, because it happened to me.

During recent months, the base leadership has been asking everyone to get their vehicle tires checked. Many of us did, and many of us did not.

I did. I had my tires inspected by the 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron in January. Master Sgt. Rene Vandenheuvel and his team identified two of my vehicle tires with severe damage - level 5.

I thanked them and drove away. I drive a sports utility vehicle, so the tires are big and cost a lot. Plus, I thought: "Okay, they are just being careful. They do not want to take chances. The tires are not so bad after all; I will change them next month..."

Time passed and I did not change my tires.

A few months later, at 5:30 a.m. on a Friday morning, I was on the autostrada taking my in-laws to the airport.

There was little traffic on dark dry pavement as I drove along at 130 kilometers per hour. I have driven on this road so many times I know every curve by heart, no problem.

I remember thinking, of all things, about a children's "sippy cup" I had taken from a wrecked vehicle I inspected a couple of days

earlier. The vehicle belonged to an airman that had a bad accident on the autostrada. I was thinking about that and I was thinking about my tires - was I being safe, not having changed them yet?

That's the moment I remember hearing a noise "POW" and asking my husband: "What was that?" My husband replied it was probably a rock. I was not sure, and that is when I felt my car pull to the left.

I struggled and held the steering wheel and slowly tried to pull the car to the right. Fortunately, I was able to keep the car under control.

We made it and we were all safe. My heart was pounding and as we got out of the car and I saw the front left tire on the rim.

It was one of the "bad" tires.

I knew I should have changed my tires. It did not matter if I thought people at the 31st LRS were being overreactive. As I learned, they told me the truth. They are the specialists; they weren't fooling me.

I recently had someone tell me they did not get their tires checked because they personally checked them themselves.

But don't trust yourself. You are not a tire specialist and you do not know what to look for.

Get the tires checked by a specialist and if they tell you have bad tires, change the tires. You may not be as lucky as me and have the chance to talk about it later.



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental

The Cornerstone

Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info:

We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

Kudos: Recognizing Those Who Serve

Thank you to the outgoing officers of the 31st Security Forces Spouses Group: President Shannon Kokot, Vice President Brooke Nelson, Treasurer/Newsletter Kristy Lanham, Secretary Noranne Kocher. Thanks for your time and endless volunteer hours that made last year a great success.

- Ann Quattrone, 31st SFS Spouses Group advisor

Congratulations to the Aviano Elementary School third graders for a great, energetic performance of the musical "Friends." It had a very talented cast and fun music to listen to. A special thanks goes out to the third grade teachers: Ms. Shingler, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Gonzalaz, Mr. Russo, Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Burt, who's willingness to get involved made this all such a worthwhile experience for the students. Also, a very special thank you goes out to Mr. Miller, AES music teacher, who's musical talents turned students' voices into works of art.

- Submitted by parents of AES third-grade students

I would like to give "kudos" to all the 31st Security Forces Squadron Airmen who work the gates. They are very friendly and have such great attitudes. I know they work long hours and their jobs are not very desirable, but they keep smiling.

- Staff Sgt. Amber Humelsheim, Aviano Pediatric Clinic